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**COUGHLIN HIGH SCHOOL STANDOUT NAMED
GATORADE PENNSYLVANIA GIRLS TRACK & FIELD ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

CHICAGO (June 24, 2010) — In its 25th year of honoring the nation's best high school athletes, The Gatorade Company, in collaboration with ESPN RISE, today announced Shelley Black of Coughlin High School as its 2009-10 Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year. Black is the first Gatorade Pennsylvania Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year to be chosen from Coughlin High School.

The award, which recognizes not only outstanding athletic excellence, but also high standards of academic achievement and exemplary character demonstrated on and off the track, distinguishes Black as Pennsylvania's best high school girls track & field athlete. Now a finalist for the prestigious Gatorade National Girls Track & Field Athlete of the Year award to be announced in June, Black joins an elite alumni association of state award-winners in 12 sports, including Allyson Felix (2001-02, Los Angeles Baptist, Calif.), Derek Jeter (1991-92, Kalamazoo HS, Mich.), Candace Parker (2001-02, Naperville Central HS, Ill.), Abby Wambach (1997-98, Our Lady of Mercy, N.Y.), Mark Sanchez (2004-05, Mission Viejo HS, Calif.), Lolo Jones (1997-98, Roosevelt HS, Iowa) and Bianca Knight (2006-07, Ridgeland HS, Miss.).

The 5-foot-10 junior swept the 100-meter high hurdles and the 300-meter intermediate hurdles at the Class 3A state meet this spring. Black won the 300 hurdles in 43.23 seconds and her time of 13.79 in the 100 hurdles was the eighth-fastest in the nation among prep competitors at the time of her selection.

Black has maintained an A average in the classroom. She has volunteered locally on behalf of a soup kitchen, a community clean-up initiative and blood-donation drives.

"She had the perfect meet at this year's state championships," said Coughlin head coach Paul McGrane. "She was focused and she knew what she had to do. She shocked a lot of people, maybe even herself."

Black will begin her senior year of high school this fall.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school football, girls volleyball, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls basketball, boys and girls soccer, baseball, softball, and boys and girls track & field, and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPN RISE and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

To keep up to date on the latest happenings, become a fan of Gatorade Player of the Year on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. For more on the Gatorade Player of the Year program, including nomination information, a complete list of past winners, and the announcement of the Gatorade National Player of the Year, visit playeroftheyear.gatorade.com.

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